



Advisory Actions 2000

Department of General Services
Office of Public School Construction

State Allocation Board Meeting: December 13, 2000
Issue Number 12

Executive Corner



The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) is pleased to announce that the resolution of the priority point issue at the December 13, 2000 State Allocation Board

(SAB) meeting has paved the way for approval of new construction apportionments. In an effort to respond quickly to this need, the SAB has called for a special meeting on January 3, 2001 with the expressed intent of approving the first quarter list of qualifying new construction projects.

Sincerely,

Luisa M. Park
Interim Executive Officer
Office of Public School Construction

Now, More Than Ever! A Complete and Accurate Application (Form SAB 50-04)

Yes, now, more than ever, a complete and accurate application is critical. Why? With priority points now in effect for new construction funding, applications received by OPSC establish date order for quarterly funding cycles and must be logged precisely as submitted. For this reason, we are encouraging districts to work closely with their project manager to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the application prior to actual submittal to the OPSC. Modifications to the form after submittal will not be possible.

This procedure must be adhered to for the following reasons:

- The Form SAB 50-04 establishes individual grant amounts requested
- The requested grant amounts are compiled and drive the workload list
- The integrity of the priority point system relies on the accuracy of this information

Some common application errors to avoid:

- It is important that only one box is checked in Section 1 of the application
- When entering a line item amount for an additional grant request for site development, be sure to also check the appropriate box for that entry
- Remember that a cost estimate must be provided to back up an additional grant request for site development (if a line item request lacks the proper back up documentation the application will be processed without that line item being given consideration for funding)

OPSC and DSA Join Forces

Design professionals and school administrators might say, "It's about time!" when they hear that the Division of the State Architect (DSA) and the OPSC are joining forces to streamline the public school construction process. For many years, these two offices have been serving the same customers with a common goal—building the best public schools for the children of California. Streamlining this process, with numerous variables in funding, design and construction is no simple task, but through a series of ongoing sessions, DSA and OPSC have committed to re-engineering this process.

We recognize that the population in California is increasing and there is an ever-increasing demand for new schools. To meet this demand, we must become more efficient. Working together, DSA and OPSC can make the most efficient use of our resources; building on our strengths and providing support to overcome our weaknesses.

Communication is an integral part of our service to school administrators and design professionals, and to facilitate this we are taking the steps to communicate with a common voice. In the coming months, you can expect regular updates on the collaboration's progress in the OPSC newsletter. Eventually, the newsletter will become a joint venture with equal participation from both offices. Having a single source of information for the public school construction process in all of its phases will benefit school districts and design professionals tremendously, especially those who are planning new schools for the first time.

Finally, we believe it is important for school construction stakeholders to have a voice in our processes. Your opinions need to be considered. We welcome your input and encouragement as this collaboration develops. Let's hear from you. [www.dsa.ca.gov or www.opsc.ca.gov]

The OPSC and DSA offices will retain their individual responsibilities and autonomy throughout the partnership, but our paramount goal will be streamlining the process of public school construction for the benefit of all California.

Proposition 39

Districts needing a resource for their 50 percent or 80 percent School Facility Program (SFP) match may find local bond funds more readily available. Due to the successful outcome of Proposition 39, approved by voters on November 7, 2000, the school bond vote requirement has been reduced from two-thirds to a 55 percent majority. Included in this initiative is the establishment of strict accountability standards for the spending and overseeing of local bond money.

New Construction "Use of Grants"

Recent concerns voiced by the SAB prompted a careful re-examination of the Use of Grants policy by the OPSC. The OPSC presented recommendations to the Board at its December 13, 2000 meeting that resulted in the following issues being referred to the Implementation Committee for input on possible regulation changes:

- Should utilization of excluded portable classrooms (Education Code 17071.30) be deemed an acceptable "housing plan" alternative?
- Should "use of grants" requests for pupil grants that exceed 150 percent of the pupil capacity of the project be approved while priority points are in effect?
- Should a "use of grants" request by a district approved for financial hardship status be approved when its "housing plan" contains a method of housing pupils which utilizes funds available to the district for contribution to the current project?

In the interim, all requests for "use of grants" will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Districts are advised that "use of grants" approvals are NOT a guarantee, and districts are encouraged to proceed with caution when planning projects.

For more information regarding "use of grants" funding requests, please contact your OPSC Project Manager. Questions regarding "use of grants" appeal requests may be directed to Mike Salyer, Appeals Analyst, at (916) 445-2615.

New Form SAB 50-07, Consolidated Cost Estimate

Although the Form SAB 50-07, *Consolidated Cost Estimate*, is pending regulation approval at the Office of Administrative Law, districts are strongly encouraged to use it in its draft format as found on the OPSC web page. Very soon this form will be required prior to acceptance of any application to the SFP. The Form SAB 50-07 was developed to ensure that plans and specifications are reviewed and approved by the DSA prior to the application's acceptance by the OPSC.

This is a dual use form that will be required by both the OPSC and the DSA. For more complete information and downloading of the Form SAB 50-07, go to the OPSC Web page at www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov.

Priority Points Instituted/Case Closed

On December 13, 2000, the principal parties in the [Godinez v Davis](#) litigation were able to resolve policy differences which had prompted the filing of a lawsuit against the State of California. The lawsuit focused on the manner and method by which the SAB dispensed new school construction funds authorized by Proposition 1A.

As a result, the SAB adopted regulations that fund all new school construction projects on a funding priority point basis. The SFP regulations will be revised to allow a school district to resubmit student enrollment figures on a district-wide basis for the purpose of determining eligibility and funding priority. The SAB also approved a quarterly allocation method of disbursing Proposition 1A new school construction funds, with \$450 million held until July 2002.

The SFP new construction workload list will be modified to report the projected priority points for those projects that will be considered for funding in the first quarterly allotment. To locate this information and for complete details pertaining to the priority point calculation method, please visit the OPSC Web page at www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov.

CBEDS Enrollment Reporting: Change in Reporting Timelines

Enrollment reporting for purposes of establishing eligibility in the SFP is based on the California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) information. Historically, the OPSC has accepted funding applications based on this source of enrollment received as late as December 31st of each year. The OPSC will continue to allow this reporting timeline through December 31, 2000. However, SFP regulations will require an earlier enrollment reporting cut-off date beginning next year. Please look for detailed information on this in upcoming advisories.

Contractor’s Registration Program - ASBESTOS

Effective January 1, 2001, all those doing work on projects related to asbestos should contact the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Industrial Relations for appropriate registration requirements. The OPSC is no longer registering Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) accredited inspectors, management planners, project designers, abatement contractors, supervisors or workers.

Information about registration can be obtained by calling (415) 850-5191, e-mail via www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/Asbestos.html or by writing to either:

Division of Occupational Safety and Health
Department of Industrial Relations
P. O. Box 420603
San Francisco, CA 94142

Division of Occupational Safety and Health
Department of Industrial Relations
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 5227
San Francisco, CA 94142

Abatement contractors must also be licensed with the Contractor’s State License Board (CSLB) of the Department of Consumer Affairs. Information on CSLB requirements can be obtained by calling 1-800-321-2752 or by writing to:

Contractor’s State License Board
Department of Consumer Affairs
P/ O. Box 26000
Sacramento, CA 95827

Status of Funds

Programs	Funds Available as of 10/25/00	Apportionment and Adjustments	Balance Available Available as of 12/13/00
Proposition 1A			
New Construction	1322.1	0.6	1322.7
Modernization	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hardship	230.9	0.0	230.9
Facility Hardship (Reserved)	30.5	0.0	30.5
Class Size Reduction			
Committed	29.2	0.0	29.2
Uncommitted	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal	1612.7	0.6	1613.3
Prior Bond Funds			
Contingency Reserves	26.2	10.2	36.4
AB 191	3.7	0.0	3.7
Northridge Earthquake	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal	29.9	10.2	40.1
Grand Total	1642.6	10.8	1653.4

Note: The SAB funded approximately \$231,483.00 for the Deferred Maintenance Fund

Construction Cost Indices

Lease-Purchase Program Construction Cost Indices for December 2000	
Class “B” Buildings	1.40
Class “D” Buildings	1.40
Furniture and Equipment	1.39
Historical Savings Index	5.88
Class “B” Buildings: Constructed primarily of reinforced concrete, steel frames, concrete floors and roofs.	
Class “D” Buildings: Constructed primarily of wood.	
Furniture and Equipment: An index based on an adjustment factor obtained quarterly from the Marshall & Swift Company.	
Historical Savings Index: An index derived quarterly from the SAB approved new construction (growth) contract bids. It is the percentage difference between the SAB/OPSC generated construction allowance and the approved contract bid.	

Copies of the applicable SAB actions, proposed regulations, and additional information can be located on the OPSC Web site at <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov>. Should you have questions or need any additional information regarding the contents of this advisory, please contact your project manager.



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